

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT 1. Sofia Parade on 9 September 1952
2. Military Life and Conditions
3. Soviets in Sofia

DATE DISTR.

29 June 1953

NO. OF PAGES

2

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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Sofia Parade on 9 September 1952

1. The units participating in the 9 September parade in Sofia devoted the whole week prior to the parade to rehearsing at night, between the hours of midnight and 4:00 a.m. The following units passed the reviewing stand:

- a. Approximately 30-40 Soviet tanks, probably T-34's
b. Approximately 20 Katyusha rocket launchers;
c. Approximately 40 heavy artillery guns, type and caliber unknown;
d. Approximately 20 antiaircraft artillery guns, type and caliber unknown; and
e. Troops in vehicles.

2. During the review, 30 or 40 jet planes of the Bulgarian Air Force carried out acrobatics above the city.

Military Life and Conditions

3. Conditions have improved for Bulgarian troops since World War II, in regard to both food and clothing. Pay is higher for officers than for workers; for instance, a captain earns 1,500 leva per month. Officers as well as non-commissioned officers and men are outfitted. the budget of the Ministry of Defense absorbs most of the revenue of the State.

4. The young men who have grown up under the new regime have absorbed the Communist ideas, and it is estimated that at least 50 percent of the personnel of the present Army are completely trustworthy.

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Soviets in Sofia

5. Soviet officers act as instructors at both the Bozhurishte and Vrazhdebna airfields near Sofia.
6. The only Soviets in uniform in Sofia are the Air Force officers listed above; all other Soviet officers circulating in the city are in mufti. There are no Soviet non-commissioned officers or Air Force personnel. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] several Soviet officers applying for passports at the Ministry of the Interior.
7. The Soviet officers' club in Sofia is located in a house at the intersection of Asanov and VI September Street. It is frequented especially by Air Force officers from the Bozhurishte and Vrazhdebna airports. The club has a dining room.
8. There are special shops in Sofia for food and manufactured goods reserved exclusively for Soviets. For this reason, the Soviets have little contact with the Bulgarian civilian population.

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1. The Tsentralen Kooperativen Shyus (Central Cooperative Union) is the central agency for buying products for the farmers and industry and for distributing to the State stores. The following units are subordinate to the Union:
 - a. Approximately 300 Markosp Kolonial (State Produce Cooperatives); these are food stores at present but will be enlarged to carry delicatessen products, wines, and liquors in the future;
 - b. Approximately 100 Narmag establishments (People's Stores), which sell foods and farm produce;
 - c. Approximately 200 Bakaliya establishments; these are nationalized food stores which have their own separate administrations (not cooperatives), but are to become Narmags in the future; and
 - d. The Meso Tsentralla (Meat Center) which has two cold storage depots:
 - (1) At the slaughterhouse, daily storage capacity of 500 tons; and
 - (2) Khalite, on Georgi Dimitrov Street, daily storage capacity of 100 tons; sells fresh and dried meats, farm produce, and vegetables.
2. The Sofia residents consume an estimated total of 500 tons of meat per day.
3. The Central Cooperative Union also has warehouses. the one in the salt market (Solni Bazar) on Tsar Samuil Street (can be reached by taking Streetcar Line No. 5 on Alabin Street) receives approximately five or six carloads of sugar and approximately 10 carloads of cheese per day. The depot consists of a 1-story building and an underground storage area (refrigerated). The building is 20 by 10 meters in size and has a red tile roof with a rust border. The depot holds approximately 50 tons of sugar and about 10 tons of cheese. Goods are brought in both by farm cart and by truck. If the depot is full, deliveries can be made directly to the retail shops.

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4. The Narkoop Kolonial directorate is located at No. 58 Alabin Street. Its director is Uzunov (fnu), a former worker. The personnel numbers approximately 1,000, as follows:
 - a. Four hundred workers;
 - b. Approximately 300 clerks; and
 - c. Approximately 300 assistant clerks.
5. It has shops numbered from 1 to 300. Each Narkoop employs only two persons, a clerk and an assistant clerk. The average monthly sales of a Narkoop are as follows:
 - a. Sugar, six tons;
 - b. White cheese, three tons;
 - c. Miscellaneous cheeses, 200 kilograms;
 - d. Flour, 300 kilograms;
 - e. Rice, one ton;
 - f. Butter, 300 kilograms;
 - g. Vegetable oil, 500-600 liters; and
 - h. Macaroni, very little.
6. Rationing was lifted in July 1952, and since then the major sales have been sugar and cheese. The Narkoops are completely sold out in both items in spite of being given an allowance of about 200-300 tons per day. The Narmags and Bakalais sell about half as much of these products as do the Narkoops. Macaroni, because of its high price, is little in demand and is allowed to spoil in the warehouses.
7. Storekeepers are allowed to sell only the following amounts to a single customer:
 - a. Sugar, 0.5 kilograms;
 - b. Cheese, 0.5 kilograms;
 - c. Rice, 1.0 kilograms;
 - d. Flour, 2-3 kilograms;
 - e. Grease, 0.5 kilograms; and
 - f. Vegetable oils, 0.5 liters.

However, in order to get sales bonuses, storekeepers often risk selling larger quantities to the customers than those allowed.
8. Food sales have not increased greatly since the lifting of rationing, because families restrict themselves to buying necessities. There is plenty of food available so there is no danger of involuntary deprivation of food. There are shortages of food and vegetables at times, because they are used for making marmalade and liquor for export. Queues are often seen in front of certain shops, not because of the fear of not finding certain products, but because the customers are attempting to find bargain prices.

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